



Police Department

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Chief of Police

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STATEMENT BY MILWAUKEE POLICE CHIEF NANNETTE HEGERTY: DEPARTMENT MOVES FORWARD WITH INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

The Milwaukee Police Department's Professional Performance Division is continuing with its internal investigation into the events of October 24, 2004 that allegedly involved off-duty Police Officers.

Many of the officers involved have been notified and scheduled for an administrative interview. The officers are allowed seven days to prepare for the interview with counsel. The internal investigation will use information compiled during the criminal investigation by investigators from the Milwaukee Police Department and the District Attorney's office.

Milwaukee Police Officers are not afforded the same rights in an internal, or administrative interview, as they are in a criminal proceeding. If an officer chooses not to speak, it may be considered a violation of department policy, and that officer could be disciplined for failure to obey a lawful order.

This is precisely why the criminal and the administrative processes must be kept separate – to maintain the integrity of the criminal case. This ensures that there would be no opportunity for allegations that compelled speech by officers from an administrative interview was used against them in a criminal proceeding.

These are serious charges and I will not tolerate criminal wrongdoing by any member of the Milwaukee Police Department. We are moving at a very deliberate pace to ensure that the outcome of our administrative investigation serves the best interests of this Department and of this community. Four of the officers involved remain on suspension without arrest powers or any other powers that accompany the duties of a police officer. They have surrendered their department-issued equipment, including badges, firearms and identification cards which allow them access to all Milwaukee Police Department facilities. All citizens, including police officers, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The suspensions were ordered for the sole purpose of ensuring that the officers had no public contact while these allegations were being investigated.

According to Wisconsin State Statute, whether they are suspended or dismissed, officers stay on the payroll until all their appeals are exhausted. That is the law.

I will announce my decision regarding any disciplinary measures to the community and to the media when the internal investigation is complete.

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